

View from the principal's office – Nov. 16, 2018

As I have each of the past two years, I want to take a moment around the Thanksgiving break to pause and reflect on the holiday and our students. On Tuesday morning we will once again have a school-wide breakfast hosted by our advisories. This will be our second annual "Breakfast-for-all," I hope that this becomes a tradition at our school. In so many ways this activity represents who we want to be, and more importantly, what we must become.

Many of us grew up during a time when the "3 R's" – Reading, 'Riting, and 'Rithmetic – were the primary work of schools. While these pillars of learning should continue to guide much of what we do in our classrooms, we must also understand the role of another very important "R" – Relationships. Hartford High School is committed to the development of strong, caring, consistent relationships. We seek a climate that fosters relationships and fully understand that, in 2018, if we have not committed to this vital "R" our students cannot fully access the traditional "3 R's."

Every day we have students enter our building who are hungry. This difficult fact of life represents true hardship and negatively impacts learning. I know that our efforts cannot adequately address our students' need, but they do represent our desire to communicate that we are partners in both learning and life. On a daily basis we feed children at our school, for some it is a welcome, pick-me-up snack, but for others it represents the security associated with knowing that their family has food for the week-end, or the long holiday break. Our commitment to supporting students with food is not separate from our educational mission, it is not an act of charity, as we seek to partner with our students to eliminate barriers, providing nutrition is simply another way to support learning.

We will eat breakfast together on Tuesday and we will go from school for a few days as a reminder to "give thanks." It is with this deep understanding of our community's needs that I share how thankful I am for the opportunity to walk into our building every day, to be witness to the amazing young people who fill our halls, and to work with a dedicated, compassionate staff who understand that Relationships must be present if our students are to fully explore the "3 R's"

Our National Honor Society maintains Hartford High School's Food Pantry and we have been very fortunate to have an alumnus benefactor who annually supports our efforts to feed our students. We are also fortunate that Robin Martin has taken providing food to children as her personal mission. If you and your family would like to join us in this work please feel free to drop off non-perishable foods or a financial donation (made out to Hartford High School) with Robin in the main office.

Happy Thanksgiving.

*Nelson Fogg
Principal*